

Statement on United Nations Efforts Toward a Political Settlement in Cyprus

December 23, 1998

The United States remains deeply committed to finding a viable solution to the Cyprus problem. A political settlement that would put an end to the tragic division of Cyprus has been and continues to be a high priority of my administration.

The United States strongly supports U.N. Secretary-General Annan's September 30, 1998, initiative to reduce tensions and promote progress toward a just and lasting settlement on Cyprus. The Security Council has adopted UNSCR 1218 endorsing Secretary-General Annan's initiative and requesting him to intensify his efforts to achieve specific objectives to reduce tensions and promote a comprehensive settlement to this longstanding dispute.

The United States wholeheartedly supports this resolution. We will take all necessary steps to support a sustained effort to implement UNSCR 1218.

I am encouraged by the cooperation and engagement demonstrated by the two sides thus far in working with the U.N. I believe 1999 can offer significant opportunities to achieve progress toward a Cyprus settlement that will meet the concerns of the parties involved. The Secretary-General's ongoing initiative is critically important to making those opportunities a reality.

Just as the international community is stepping up its efforts on Cyprus through the U.N., it is important for the Cypriots themselves to support those efforts. I urge all the parties to avoid taking any steps that could increase tensions on the island, including the expansion of military forces and armaments. This will make possible the significant efforts that I and others want to make in order to promote substantial progress toward a political settlement of the Cyprus problem in 1999.

Statement on the National Economy

December 24, 1998

Today we received more evidence that our economy remains solid and strong, more proof that the economic strategy we have had in place for 6 years is serving America's working families well. Last month personal income rose a strong 0.5 percent. That's good news in this holiday season and good news for our future. Over the past year, personal incomes have increased nearly 5 percent, far faster than the rate of inflation.

While we should be pleased with our strong economic progress, now is not a time to rest;

it is a time to build. To ensure that America's economy continues to work for America's working families, we must maintain the three-part economic strategy that has helped produce these remarkable gains. We must maintain our fiscal discipline; continue to invest in our people through education, health care, and research and development; and continue to lead the global economy.

The President's Radio Address

December 26, 1998

Good morning. December is a month for families, a season of celebration and anticipation, especially for our children. But with alcohol

flowing at parties and millions of families taking to the road to see friends and relatives, the holiday season can also be a season of tragedy.